

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: GREGORY J. SESSELMANN

For: ODOR ABSORBING CLOTHING

Serial No.: 08/125,342

Examiner: G. Hale

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Group Art Unit: 2407

DECLARATION OF KATHY ETLING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

I, Kathy Etling, declare that:

1. I am a U.S. citizen.
2. I currently reside at 2760 Ashfield Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129.
3. I have approximately thirty years of outdoor hunting and fishing experience.
4. For the past eleven years, I have been writing articles for a variety of outdoors periodicals, including Outdoor Life, National Rifle Association-American Hunter, Peterson's Hunting, Peterson's Bow Hunting, Buckmasters, and North American Whitetail. Many of the articles which I have written are new product reviews.

5. One significant challenge facing hunters and outdoor photographers is avoiding detection by wildlife's acute sense of smell. There have been two ways in which persons have attempted to avoid detection of human odor, namely elimination of human odor and masking or covering up human odor. Cover scents have been used in excess of thirty years by outdoorsmen in an attempt to cover up human odor. These scents range from corn scent, skunk, fox urine, and raccoon urine. Based upon my experience, these products have limited success because they never effectively eliminate the human odor and wildlife with

an acute sense of smell, such as deer and elk, will detect the human odor, regardless of the amount of cover scent. Because of the amount of cover scent used, a cover scent will generally alert the wildlife such as deer that something is out of the ordinary. For example, a skunk releases its scent when it is alarmed or frightened. Therefore, a deer entering the area and detecting a skunk will have reason to be cautious.

6. A second method which has been practiced to attempt to prevent detection by wildlife through sense of smell is to eliminate the odor through the use of special shampoos, body soaps, and odorless detergents. In addition, I have inserted a bag of leaves in my washing machine while washing my hunting clothes in an attempt to imbed the leaf smell in my clothes. Once again, these attempts at eliminating human odor have met with limited success.

7. I have personally used the Scent-Lok™ odor-absorbing suit manufactured by ALS Enterprises and have spoken with several other hunters who have used this suit. Based upon my several years of experience in this field, the Scent-Lok™ suit provides an unbelievable advantage for outdoorsmen in avoiding detection by wildlife through the sense of smell.

8. For example, while wearing my Scent-Lok™ suit, two bucks walked within three yards, downwind of me, and did not detect enough human odor to alarm them. In fact, I had to scare one of these two bucks away for fear of being stepped on or gored by his antlers. This close contact with deer is usually impossible with known cover scents.

9. On the same occasion described above, a third, more mature buck spotted me and came within fifteen yards, downwind of me. The buck was confused because he saw me, but never detected enough human odor to be alarmed.

10. In another instance using the Scent-Lok™ suit, I was in a tree stand in the late evening when air flow generally flows downward due to cooling of the earth's surface. While in the tree stand, a doe and a buck ran around the tree I was sitting in and the area immediately below me for approximately 20 minutes. The deer never smelled enough human odor in order to be alarmed. In each of the instances described above, the deer would have probably smelled me regardless of my use of a known cover scent or odorless detergent and shampoo. I credit each of these spectacular encounters with deer to the Scent-Lok™ suit.

11. One of deer and elk's primary defenses against danger is their acute sense of smell. The Scent-Lok™ suit works so well and provides such an unbelievable advantage to the hunter that it is almost unfair.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful, false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001, Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful, false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dated: 11-4-93

Kathy Etling
Kathy Etling